

## Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 ACDA-19 IO-13

OMB-01 L-03 NSC-10 RSR-01 /125 W

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R 311522Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2206

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF

SUBJ: MIDDLE EAST SITUATION: HEIKAL INTERVIEWS

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

1. SUMMARY: EVER GARRULOUS, AL AHRAH EDITOR HEIKAL, DURING CURRENT VISIT TO PARIS, HAS BOMBARDED FRENCH PRESS WITH INTERVIEWS AND PERSONAL COMMENTS ON MIDDLE EAST SITUATION IN GENERAL AND EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN UNION IN PARTICULAR. SPEECHES, STATEMENTS AND INTERVIEWS INCLUDE JULY 26 SPEECH TO FRANCE-ARAB PRESS CORPS, INTERVIEWS IN JULY 30 NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR AND JULY 31 FIGARO, AND STATEMENT IN AUGUST 4 ISSUE OF JEUNE AFRIQUE. TEXTS POUCHED CAIRO AND NEA/EGY. END SUMMARY.

2. LIBYA-EGYPT UNION: WITHOUT EXCEPTION IN ALL HIS STATEMENTS, HEIKAL HAS STRESSED INEVITABILITY, NECESSITY, AND DESIRABILITY OF UNION PROPOSAL. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TWO SIDES HE INSISTS ARE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MATTERS NOT OF SUBSTANCE BUT OF FORM. IN JEUNE AFRIQUE HE CITES

POSITIVE FACTORS ACTING IN FAVOR OF UNION: 1) EGYPTIAN AND LIBYAN REVOLUTIONS ARE BOTH EXPRESSIONS OF NASSERIAN PHILOSOPHY; 2) TWO COUNTRIES ARE GEOGRAPHICALLY CONTIGUOUS; 3) THEY HAVE COMPLEMENTARY ECONOMIC INTERESTS; 4) CAUSE OF ARAB UNITY HAS NEED FOR PILOT STATE. NEW STATE WOULD CONSTITUTE A POLE OF ATTRACTION FOR OTHER ARAB STATES AND WOULD GIVE THEM NEW HOPE; 5) UNION WOULD GIVE NEW DEPTH TO SUEZ FRONT AND MAKE POSSIBLE LONGER BATTLE AGAINST ISRAEL; 6) NEW STATE WOULD DISPOSE OF WEAPONS WHICH WOULD PERMIT IT TO INTERVENE EFFECTIVELY IN WORLD MONETARY AND ENERGY CRISES.

3. HEIKAL HAS TAKEN CONSIDERABLE PAINS TO INSIST THAT QADHAFI IS NEITHER FOOL NOR MADMAN, BUT IS RESPONSIBLE LEADER WILLING TO LISTEN TO

OPPOSING POINTS OF VIEW. IN FIGARO INTERVIEW, HEIKAL ARGUES THAT TWENTY YEARS AGO BRITISH CONSIDERED NASSER MAD, AND NOW EPITHETS WHICH ONCE USED FOR NASSER BEING APPENDED TO QADHAFI. HEIKAL IN JEUNE AFRIQUE CLAIMS TO HAVE SPOKE PLAINLY TO QADHAFI AND TO HAVE TOLD HIM ARAB NATIONALISM DOES NOT IMPLY ANTI-MARXIST CRUSADE, THAT ISLAM SHOULD BE ACCEPTED AS ONE SOURCE OF INSPIRATION BUT NOT UNIQUE SOURCE, THAT EGYPTIAN NATIONALISM DID NOT NECESSITATE CONFRONTATION WITH SOVIET UNION. HEIKAL ALSO CLAIMS TO HAVE CAUTIONED QADHAFI AGAINST WASTING ENERGIES ON ISSUES SUCH AS NORTHERN IRELAND WHICH REMOTE FROM ARAB CAUSE.

4. OVERALL MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT: HEIKAL'S POSITIONS SHOW NO NEW THINKING. IN FIGARO HE SUPPORTS APPLICATION OF RESOLUTION 242. NEGOTIATION, HE SAYS, MUST INCLUDE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. IN NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR INTERVIEW HE ADDS RESTITUTION OF TERRITORIES OCCUPIED IN 1967 AS ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF SETTLEMENT. HEIKAL OPENLY ACKNOWLEDGED EGYPTIAN WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT 1967 FRONTIERS. HE STRONGLY CONDEMNED RECENT HIJACKING AS "TOTAL ERROR." RATHER, HE SAID, PALESTINIANS SHOULD GIVE PRIORITY ATTENTION TO REINTEGRATING THEMSELVES INTO OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. THEY CANNOT CARRY OUT STRUGGLE FROM OUTSIDE, AND RISK LOSING CHANCE OF DEMONSTRATING TO WORLD THAT THEY ARE AUTHENTIC REPRESENTATIVES OF SUFFERING PEOPLE.

5. HEIKAL AVOIDS CRITICISM OF SOVIET UNION OR OF US-SOVIET SUMMIT. HE NOTES IN LE FIGARO THAT HE WAS IN MOSCOW DURING BREZHNEV VISIT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO WASHINGTON AND THAT IT WAS EVIDENT TO HIM THAT MIDDLE EAST WAS MUCH LESS IMPORTANT IN GLOBAL VIEW OF SUPER POWERS THAN HE HAD PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT. HE ACKNOWLEDGES THAT TWO SUPER POWERS FOR TIME BEING POSSESS THE KEYS TO THE PROBLEM. ULTIMATELY, HE ARGUES, ARABS WILL HAVE TO COME FORWARD TO RESOLVE OWN PROBLEMS, AND HINTS ONE DAY EUROPE MAY HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY.  
DECONTROL 12/31/73.  
IRWIN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED USINT CAIRO.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 JUL 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** thigpegh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Line Count:** 116  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** thigpegh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <23-Aug-2001 by smithrj>; APPROVED <23-Oct-2001 by thigpegh>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MIDDLE EAST SITUATION: HEIKAL INTERVIEWS DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO  
**TAGS:** PFOR, XF  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005